REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 5, 2004. Claim 1-8, 11-18, 20-29 and 31-53 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 22, 23, 31, 36, 41 and 51-53 are in independent form. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 11, 12, 15, 16, 22-28, 31-36, 38, 40-43 and 51-53 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication that Claims 3, 13, 24, 32, 35, 37, 40, 42, and 45 include allowable subject matter would be allowable if rewritten in proper independent form. Those claims have not been so rewritten at this time because, for the reasons set out below, their respective base claims are believed to be allowable.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 11, 12, 15, 16, 21-23, 26, 27, 31, 36, 41, 46-49 and 51-53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,139,134 (Ando et al.), and Claims 4, 7, 8, 14, 17, 18, 20, 25, 28, 29, 32-34, 38, 39, 43, 44 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from *Ando* in view of U.S. Patent 5,907,666 (Yano et al.).[1]

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[1] The Office Action actually states that Claims 4, 7, *et seq.*, are rejected, not over *Ando* and *Yano*, but over *Sasaki* in view of *Yano* (part 6 of the Office Action, at page 3). Since the following discussion relates to *Ando* rather than to *Sasaki*, it is understood that the actual rejection is based on *Ando* and *Yano*. If that is not the Examiner's intention, then it is believed that the next Action, if it again rejects these claims over *Sasaki* and *Yano*, should be non-final.

Independent Claim 1 is directed to an information processing apparatus that comprises a common processing module for providing a common image processing that quantizes image information for a printer connected to the information processing apparatus irrespective of the type of the connected printer. The apparatus also has a plurality of individual processing modules each providing a different image processing that modifies the image information quantized by the common processing module for a printer connected to the information processing apparatus depending on the type of the connected printer, and means for switching among the individual processing modules in accordance with the type of the connected printer and outputting information processed by the switched module to the connected printer.

Ando relates to a printer having a first driver 23 (see Fig. 2) for driving a first layered piezoelectric device 33, a second driver 24 for driving a second layered piezoelectric device 34, and a signal processing control circuit 22. As stated at col. 10, lines 53-59, when the time for printing has come, a printing trigger is outputted from the signal processing control circuit 22 and is detected by the timing control circuit 32, which in turn outputs, at a predetermined timing, a quantification section control signal and a discharge control signal to the first driver 23 and to the second driver 24, respectively.

Nothing has been found or pointed out in *Ando*, however, that would teach or suggest either (i) a common processing module for providing a common image processing *that*

quantizes image information for a printer connected to the information processing apparatus irrespective of the type of the connected printer, or (ii) plural individual modules that each provide a different image processing that modifies the image information quantized by the common processing module, depending on the type of the connected printer, as recited in Claim 1. By virtue of these features, therefore, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is clearly allowable over *Ando*.

Independent Claim 2 is directed to an information processing apparatus that comprises a common processing module for providing a common image processing that quantizes image information for a printer connected to the information processing apparatus irrespective of the type of the connected printer, and a plurality of individual processing modules each providing a different image processing that modifies the image information quantized by the common processing module for a printer connected to the information processing apparatus depending on the type of the connected printer. Also provided in the apparatus are means for switching among the individual processing modules in accordance with information indicating the type of the connected printer obtained from the printer and outputting information processed by the switched module to the connected printer..

Nothing has been found in *Ando* that would teach or suggest the recited switching means of Claim 2. The Office Action cites element 27 as meeting this claim language, and cites

col. 10, lines 8-59, in support of that position. Applicant finds himself unable to agree with the Examiner's reading of *Ando*. Element 27, described in that patent as being a control-drive section (col. 9, line 53), is said to receive a signal that has been processed by signal processing control circuit 22 (which the Office Action asserts would correspond to the recited common processing module of the independent claims). Circuit 27 "carries out drive and synchronization of the motors for driving the drum 2 and the feed screw 5 and control a head cleaning, a printing paper supply and exhaust and the like" (col. 10, lines 39-42). No suggestion has been found in *Ando* that the control-driving circuit 27 serves to switch between drivers 23 and 24, or in any other sense to switch those modules, as would need to be the case for circuit 27 to meet the terms of Claim 2. For at least this reason, Claim 2 is believed to be clearly allowable over *Ando*.

Independent Claim 31 is directed to an information processing apparatus that comprises memory means storing a common processing module for providing a common image processing that quantizes image information for a connected printer irrespective of the type of the connected printer and a plurality of individual processing modules each for providing a different image processing that modifies the image information quantized by the common processing module for a connected printer depending on the type of the connected printer. Also provided are executing means for executing the processing program stored in the memory means.

Claim 31 is believed to be allowable over *Ando* at least for the reasons discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

Claims 11, 12 and 36 are method claims, Claims 22, 23 and 41 are memory-medium claims, and Claims 51-53 are program-product claims corresponding respectively to one or another of the three apparatus claims discussed above, and are each allowable over *Ando* by virtue of the same reasons as are discussed with regard to the respective corresponding apparatus claim.

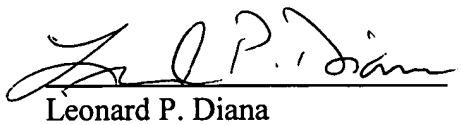
A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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